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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Sera

In September and October 1951 a great shortage of diphtheria sera was apparent in the DDR. Neither the Sächsisches Serum Werk, Dresden, nor the Asid-Serum Institut (VVB Pharma), Berlin, could relieve this shortage. Sera of up to 4000 AB strength were available, but the needed 6000 AE strength sera were unobtainable.

2. Codeine and morphine

The production of morphine by Jenapharm was sufficient for DDR needs. Small amounts of codeine were sporadically available from Jenapharm, Jena, but these were not sufficient to meet the needs of the DDR. In October 1951, 600 kg. of Codeine were actually stored at Jenapharm but could not be distributed, in spite of the great needs of the hospitals. The difficulty was caused by the high price asked by Jenapharm, that of 3000 DM East/kg. This is about four times the normal market price. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Finance to resolve.

3. Miscellaneous pharmaceutical chemicals

Particular shortages of the following products were apparent:

Atropine and other belladonna alkaloids
 Pilocarpine** and physostigmine
 Iodine and iodine salts
 Barbituric acid and derivatives
 Ephedrine
 Antineuralgics and antipyretics of the pyrazolone series
 (Phenyldimethylpyrazolone, Dimethylamino-phenyldimethylpyrazolone, etc.)

DHZ Chemie/Pharmazie has been unable to relieve these shortages from either imports or internal production, although Jenapharm supplied small amounts of ephedrine.

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4. Import of pharmaceutical products

The only imports which DHZ-Chemie/Pharmazie was able to distribute in October 1951 were 0.5 metric tons of camomile from Hungary and 1 metric tons of Fol. Menth. pip. (sic) from Bulgaria.

5. Organizational difficulties and changes were as follows:

- a. Some poor quality camomile and peppermint were cultivated in 1951 in the DDR. The corresponding pharmaceutical products had to be imported, however. (See paragraph 4). The main difficulty has been not the poor price paid to the cultivator but the over-organization of the DDR distributing group. The cultivator must offer all pharmaceutical products to VVEAB (Vereinigung Volkseigener Erfassungs- und Aufkaufbetriebe). VVEAB sells at a profit to DHZ Chemie/Pharmazie. The DHZ sells, again at a profit, to industry or to pharmacists. Often the products need purification or further preparation, in which case there is another step between DHZ and the retailer.
- b. The supply position may be improved somewhat when, as is expected shortly, pharmaceuticals are no longer merely one of the responsibilities of DHZ-Chemie. They are to be handled by a new department, DHZ - Arztbedarf und Pharmazie. The personnel setup for this new DHZ, which will be subordinate to the Ministry of Health, is now being approved by the Ministry of the Interior. The new DHZ will absorb the old DHZ-Arzt- und Krankenhausbedarf. In pharmaceutical circles it is thought likely that one Glaser, fmu, now head of DHZ-Chemie, will be in charge of the new DHZ.

* Comment: Antitoxin units.

** Comment: Philocorpine is extracted from the leaves of the Jaborandi tree of Paraguay.

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